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the House's membership roll should be selected for Speaker.

WATCH THE WARDS.

The reception which some members of the House of Delegates gave to Street Commissioner Varrelmann's written explanation of the delay in the completion of authorized street improvements attracts attention to another characteristic of the present administration which should be gloriously wanting in the next administration.

Street Commissioner Varrelmann's proper recommendation, that ordinances authorizing street improvements be passed where possible in the winter so that work might be begun early in spring, was received in a spirit of wholly unwarranted hostility.

A woeful lack of harmony, a hostility to suggestion even in matters where no direct difference exists, has been a noticeable characteristic of the Ziegenheim administration. The city has suffered immeasurably in consequence. The majority in the Municipal Assembly has been opposed to the Board of Public Improvements in almost every enterprise broached, from street lighting to water filtration. It was opposed to the Compulsory Bill in the allotment of the city's revenues, and the all-for-salaries appropriation bill, and a big defeat was result. It now seems well started in opposition to the Street Commissioner on a subject where no difference exists. What little street improvement might be possible in St. Louis will probably be seriously hampered as a result.

Some official members of the present administration enjoy the confidence of the people of St. Louis. The members of the Board of Public Improvements, as a whole, may be placed in this class. They might do much for the city if they were not rendered powerless by the Municipal Assembly, supported by the Mayor.

St. Louis must put in power in April a corps of officials which shall have but one rule of conduct—the promotion of the interests of the city; which shall ask but one question in considering a measure—Will it help the city?

This will not be supremely difficult in the officials selected by the city at large, but it will require undagging watchfulness and unceasing work as regards the members of the House of Delegates.

Members of the House of Delegates are chosen from the wards. The nominees generally are not known outside of their immediate circles. St. Louis must see that in every ward there is nominated at least one man as candidate for the House of Delegates whose known character and past record shall be a certificate of his activity in the cause of the people.

St. Louis must see that even in the wards no undesirable candidate, no matter what party has nominated him, shall escape condemnation at the polls.

A city government working harmoniously in all its branches for the interests of the city must be the result of the April elections.

EXCISE FEES.

This is a timely moment at which to urge upon the attention of the incoming State Legislature the wisdom of so reducing the cost of the Excise Commissioner's office to the State of Missouri as to place that office upon a basis more consistent with the Democratic theory of an economical conduct of the public business.

Under the fee system which now prevails the Excise Commissioner is extravagantly overpaid for his services. There is no good reason why this office, not by any means calling for exceptional ability, should bring to its incumbent an annual income which makes it by far the most remunerative office in the entire State—the Excise Commissioner's pay greatly exceeding the salary of the Governor of Missouri, or of the Attorney General, or of the Circuit Judges, or of the City Counselor of St. Louis. Not one logical argument can be advanced why this should be the case.

The next State Legislature should see to it that this costly inconsistency does not longer prevail in a Democratic State. The fee system should be abolished and the Excise Commissioner placed on a salary.

If it should be thought that a maintenance of the fee system is imperatively necessary to insure the full collection of the excise tax, then the Excise Commissioner should be placed on a salary, with the fee system still a part of his source of revenue, but with the fees reduced to a reasonable basis. This suggestion must surely make itself felt as fair and just and practicable to all fair, just and practical minds.

PLAIN DUTY AHEAD.

Under the leadership of a reunited and reorganized Democracy the resistance of the American people to the obvious encroachments upon popular rights made by the unduly privileged trust monopolies will be continued with increased vigor and a certain confidence of the final victory of the people over the combines.

The result of the national elections of 1900, following a campaign in which all the power of trust money and influence was exerted to overcome the will of the people, makes inevitable that increased arrogance of monopoly which will itself assist in the ultimate removal of the trust menace from American commercial and industrial life.

Four years more of Hannibal and McKinleyism, during which the triumphant trusts will have full swing in their malign progress toward complete mastery of the people, will compel Americans to face and recognize their plain duty. It will bring about conditions where it will be no longer possible to safely leave the Government in the hands of the party of the trusts.

President McKinley and a Republican majority in the National Congress have been elected by the power of the trusts to furnish a government for the trusts. Mark Hanna, the agent of the trusts in public life, is in a position of authoritative leadership which will enable him to see that Republican obligations to the trusts are fulfilled to the letter. Beginning with the passage of the Hanna-Payne-Frye-Standard Oil ship subsidy bill, taxing the American people to the extent of \$200,000,000 for the further enrichment of the trusts, the four years immediately ahead of the American people will be devoted by the Republican administration of national affairs to the full payment of its debts to the trusts. They will be years of despoliation.

tion of the people, but the evil thus emphasized should bring its own remedy.

It remains for the Democratic national organization to put itself in effective shape for the performance of its sacred duty to the people of this country. Its strongest and safest men, those inspiring the fullest confidence on the part of thoughtful Americans, must be placed in control of the party. In behalf of legitimate business interests and of the individual as opposed to that evil of monopoly which threatens all legitimate enterprise the trusts must be fought to a finish by American Democracy. And American Democracy must be so organized for this supreme duty as to make its best and fullest effort certain and effective.

THE NEW ST. LOUIS.

In figuring on the outlay that will be necessary to place St. Louis in the modernized condition demanded of a World's Fair city there is not the remotest reason for dismay or for reluctance on the part of the people of the municipality to be thus improved and beautified.

It is true that it will cost vast sums to accomplish the results which are imperatively demanded. The streets must be reconstructed. They must be properly lighted. They must be kept clean. The boulevards must be fitly paved. Overhead wires must go underground. The sewer system must be made adequate. A filter plant for the purification of the city's water supply must be established. There is, in fact, no part of the material structure of St. Louis that does not need attention and costly improvement.

But when these things shall have been done, St. Louis will be a new city, handsome, modern, clean—one of the most attractive cities in the world. These immeasurable benefits will tend to the greater happiness of St. Louisans long after the World's Fair of 1903 shall have passed into history. And, taking the final showing of the Paris Exposition of 1900 as an indication, such improvements will in the end have cost St. Louis nothing. The original outlay will be more than offset by the prosperity due to the World's Fair.

There is but one thing to be insisted upon at the beginning of the era that is to witness a modernized and beautified St. Louis. The millions of dollars to be expended in this work must be expended by honest, capable, well-trained business men in municipal office, not by political gangsters and bootlickers. The World's Fair is not a mammoth "graft" and rake-off for politicians on the part of the staff. The municipal administration in control during the World's Fair must be composed of St. Louis's best men. This is imperative, as all good citizens agree.

"Show me; I'm from Missouri!" is a slogan which partisan organs with a weakness for distorting the truth will tremble to hear in all future Missouri campaigns. Change it a trifle and it is all right. Let it read this way: "Show me what is needed and I will do it. I'm from Missouri!"

While large numbers of agencies which had nothing to do with it are claiming to have caused the landslide of last Tuesday in St. Louis, Mayor Ziegenheim, the real cause, has not voiced a single claim.

With Rough Rider Roosevelt presiding over the Senate's deliberations a refreshing and strenuously picturesque change should be due in the ordinarily depressing atmosphere of the Senate Chamber.

For having failed to "show" Missourians the proofs warranting their malicious charges against Missouri Democracy the Globe-Democrat and its party have met with deserved humiliation.

It is more than ever reasonable to believe that the American people are consistently Democratic and that they know the pure and undiluted brand of American Democracy when they see it.

Trustism and a newly stimulated imperialism may now be expected to inject additional vigor into American life by levying heavier taxes for subsidies and the support of imperial adventures.

Mayor Ziegenheim and his helpers will see only five more full moons light up the city. Then the streets will burst into permanent light whether the moon shines or not.

It is now the duty of every loyal St. Louisan to align himself with the movement to overthrow Ziegenheimism next April in behalf of good government in St. Louis.

One of the first logical outcroppings of the reelection of Mr. McKinley is found in a promptly renewed movement for an increase of the army.

Democracy's great local victory at the polls was so exclusively due to clean nominations that its significance should be of lasting value to the party.

It isn't unreasonably optimistic to believe that an additional four years of McKinleyism will necessitate the overthrow of trustism.

If the trusts fail to get everything they want in the next four years it will be only because they neglect to ask for it.

One of the principal attributes of the official count in an election appears to be that it butters no parsnips.

If living is not warfare, a fierce and vast campaign. Let's be good soldiers in our day, the kind that don't complain; The cheerful breed that on the march so steady strides along; And gathers 'round the bivouac of night with heartening song; That bears the brunt of battle as bravely as may be; And cultivates a laughing eye, the brighter side to war; For self-respect's a steadfast mark to guide your marching by; And the world loves a good soldier, that bears them straight and high.

If living is not warfare, let's make it splendid war. Till of some noble purpose tells each honorable deed; And vanquishment shall only mean a worthy deed deferred; And victory's cry as that of right triumphant shall be heard; So glorious that when the grand Te Deum strains God's angels shall lift up the chant and choir it through the skies; And the trumpets of archangels shall sound the proud release; The signals to good soldiers God's ultimate of peace!

RIPLEY L. SAUNDERS.

WALKER-FILLEY WEDDING TO BE INFORMAL-NOTES.



Of St. Joseph, Mo., who arrived in St. Louis yesterday to visit Mrs. G. Herbert Walker and to be a bridesmaid for her intimate friend, Miss Louise Filley, on Wednesday.

Invitations were yesterday recalled for the wedding of Miss Louise Filley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Filley, and David D. Walker, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. D. D. Walker of Vanderbever place, which was announced to take place to-morrow afternoon. The serious illness of Miss May Douglas of No. 383 Westminster place, a cousin of Miss Filley, precludes any possibility of festivity, though all arrangements for the wedding were made as simple and informal as possible before Miss Douglas's condition became alarming.

The ceremony will not be postponed, however, but will take place at 5 o'clock at the Filley home, No. 406 Maryland avenue, witnessed only by members of the Walker and Filley families and the five young women friends whom the bride had asked to be her bridesmaids. They are Miss Lucille Nave of St. Joseph, Miss Euston Walsh, Miss Elizabeth Wilin, formerly of St. Louis, but recently removed to Norfolk, Va., and Miss Sallie Walsh. The bridegroom's youngest brother, J. T. Walker, will assist as best man.

Mr. and Mrs. Simmons chartered Miss Pierce, Miss Simpkins and Miss Morrill on a little outing to Eureka Springs last week, the party returning to town yesterday morning. While at Eureka they were joined by several young men and occupied a bungalow in the mountains, with daily hunting trips, plenty of quail shooting and riding for their constant diversions.

Miss Marie Hayes is in Detroit, where she will serve as bridesmaid for her friend, Miss Pauline Kenna, whose marriage to Ralph Hugh Page of Chicago is to take place on November 21. Miss Kenna has frequently been a guest of Miss Hayes in St. Louis, and is well-known here. The bride couple are to make their home in Detroit, living at No. 109 McDougall avenue, after February 1.

Mr. J. W. Morton and Miss Morton of No. 49 Vandewater place have sent out cards for a tea on Monday afternoon, November 26, from 3 until 6.

Mr. Thomas H. West will give a collation for his youngest daughter, Miss Carroll West, on Monday evening, November 26, at Mahler's.

Mrs. George Lacey Crawford has issued cards for an afternoon reception on Tuesday, November 27, for her sister, Mrs. Frank Roth, who has lately been living in London. Mr. Roth is now abroad and on his return they expect to take up their residence in New York permanently.

Mrs. George Baker will receive on Tuesday afternoon, November 27, for Mrs. F. A. Drury of New York, who is her guest.

The Yale Glee Club will sing in St. Louis on December 22 at the Odont. The concert will be followed, as is customary, by a ball.

A party of St. Louisans will go eastward to see the big football games on Saturday of this week and on Thanksgiving. They are all relatives and friends of Jim Wear, quartermaster of the football team. Mr. Wear, Mr. Walker, Miss Nave of St. Joseph, Thomas Maffitt and Mrs. Kotany are among the party.

The Rubinstein Club will be entertained this evening by Doctor Willard Bartlett and Mrs. Bartlett at their residence, No. 285 Delmar boulevard.

The marriage of Miss Caroline Gertrude Brown to Mr. Walter Perry Haskins will take place this evening at the home of the bride's parents, No. 407 Morgan street. The ceremony will be performed by the Reverend Doctor Early of the First Methodist Church. A reception to relatives and friends will follow from 8 to 10 o'clock. The bride is a daughter of Mr. Murray Brown of the Wabash road and the groom holds a respectable position with the Welmere Tobacco Company.

Swarms—there is no other fitting word—literally, swarms of people surged into Music Hall last night at the opening of the opera season, until they filled every seat, overtopped the foyer and overflowed into the lobby, with a never-receding stream of newcomers until well along in the second act of "The Prophet."

Manager Southwell has inaugurated a new rule that will be rigidly enforced this year—that of not seating persons who arrive after the curtain has gone up, until the close of the first act. So many came last night that the foyer was badly congested for the entire first act, and not until the close of the second did everybody find his seat.

The boxes were as usual somewhat gayer in appearance than the remainder of the house. Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Steer have taken a season box. The box is occupied by Mrs. John J. Raleigh, Miss Bartie, Miss Steer, Garth Billingsley and Will Steer.

Ex-Governor Francis had a left box last night, with Mrs. Francis, Mrs. George Wallace Niedringhaus, Miss Florence Hayward, Mr. Niedringhaus and Mr. Charles E. Platt. Mrs. Francis was in gray. Mrs. Niedringhaus wore a pink gown, trimmed in yellow lace.

Next to the Francis box were the Charles D. McLaure, Mrs. McLaure wearing a very pretty toilet of palest gray meter crepe, with much white lace. Their guests were Mrs. Alexander Niedringhaus, Mr. Niedringhaus, Mrs. W. A. Shoemaker and Doctor Shoemaker.

Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Shapleigh entertained friends in the first box of the right tier. Mrs. Kate Collier, Mrs. Tower, E. R. Collins and Mr. Tower were with them.

A stage box was occupied by Mrs. Trotter and her daughters, the Misses Trotter. Next to this box A. E. Faust and Mrs. Faust had with them Mrs. Glanville and several guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Koehler Sr., occupied one of the boxes of the right tier, other being filled with Mr. Will J. Thornton's party composed of Mrs. E. P. V. Ritter, Mrs. Ritter, Mrs. Ernest Southwell and Mr. Southwell, with Mr. Thornton.

Down in the front parquet was a party of relatives and friends of Miss Josephine Ludwig, interested in her first St. Louis appearance. Mr. and Mrs. William Dittmann, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Becker, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Becker, Mr. and